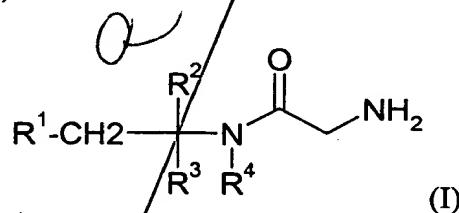


CLAIMS

1. Use a compound having NMDA antagonist activity in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of irritable bowel syndrome (IBS).

5 2. Use according to claim 1 wherein the compound having NMDA antagonist activity is a non-competitive NMDA antagonist.

10 3. Use according to claim 1 wherein the compound having NMDA antagonist activity is a compound of formula (I):



where:

15 R¹ and R² are independently phenyl or 4-fluorophenyl;
 R³ is hydrogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl or methoxycarbonyl;
 R⁴ is hydrogen or methyl;
 and metabolites and isomers thereof both as a free base and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

20 4. Use according to claim 3 wherein the compound of formula (I) is remacemide or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

5. Use according to claim 3 wherein the compound is 2,3-diphenyl-2-propylamine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

25 6. Use according to claim 3 wherein the compound is (S)-1-phenyl-2-(2-pyridyl)ethanamine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

30 7. Use according to claim 1 wherein the NMDA antagonist is memantine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

8. Use according to claim 1 where the compound is 2-amino-N-(1,2-diphenylethyl)acetamide, α -phenyl-1H-pyrazole-1-ethanamine, (+)-N-ethyl-1-phenyl-

2-(3-pyrazine)ethanamine, or 2-amidino-6-(2-amino-2-phenyl)-ethylpyridine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

9. A method of treating or preventing irritable bowel syndrome which comprises
5 administering to a patient in the need thereof a compound having NMDA antagonist activity or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Sub
Q2 10 10. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of irritable bowel syndrome comprising a compound having NMDA antagonist activity and a pharmaceutical acceptable carrier.

11. Pharmaceutical composition according to claim 10, wherein the compound having NMDA antagonist activity is a non-competitive NMDA antagonist.

15 12. Pharmaceutical composition according to claim 10, wherein the compound having NMDA antagonist activity is a compound of formula I defined in claim 3.